

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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FOLLOWING RECD FM SAO A PAULO DATED 30 SEP SENT
ACTION BRASILIA INFO RIO DE JANEIRO BEING REPEATED FOR
YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

SAO PAULO 2160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, BR

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIAL VIEWS SAO PAULO UNIVERSITY
AND INTELLECTUAL SCENE

REF: SAO PAULO 2130

1. CONFIRMING NEWS REPORTS AND INFORMATION CONGEN HAS RECEIVED
FROM OTHER SOURCES, THE LOCAL SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR
MIN EDUCATION HAS TOLD US THAT "A LEFTIST" SLATE CALLED "UNIDADE"
WON ALL SIX SEATS ON THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
SAO PAULO (USP) IN STUDENT ELECTIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE SEPTEMBER
23. "UNIDADE" ALSO WON FOUR OF THE SIX ALTERNATE POSITIONS ON
THE COUNCIL, THE OTHER TWO BEING WON BY THE "REUNIR" SLATE WHICH
HE ALSO CALLED "LEFTIST". THE MINEDUCATION SOURCE THOUGHT THERE
WAS ONLY A DIFFERENCE OF PERSONALITIES BETWEEN THESE TWO SLATES,
THEIR OBJECTIVES BEING IDENTICAL. (WE NOTE THAT THE VICTORIOUS
"UNIDADE" SLATE IN EFFECT WAS THE ORTHODOX STUDENT TICKET INASMUCH
AS IT WAS COMPOSED OF CANDIDATES PUT UP BY THE STUDENT CENTERS OF
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VARIOUS SCHOOLS ON THE USP CAMPUSES.) OUR SOURCE WAS PLEASED TO

NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT A THIRD SLATE, KNOWN AS "INTERGRACAO", WHICH HAD BEEN SPONSORED (QUIETLY) BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, HAD WON ALMOST 1400 OF THE 15,000 VOTES CAST OF A TOTAL STUDENT BODY OF 28,000). OUR SOURCE THOUGHT THIS WAS A SATISFACTORY RESULT FOR A FIRST TRY, GIVEN THE OVERWHELMING CONTROL WHICH "THE LEFTISTS" ENJOY AT USP. HE THOUGHT "INTEGRACAO" COULD HAVE WON MORE VOTES IF IT HAD RECEIVED SOLID FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HE SAID IT HADNOT, AND HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT GREATER INROADS COULD BE MADE INTO THE HEGEMONY OF THE LEFTIST-DOMINATED STUDENT MOVEMENT AT USP IN THE FUTURE.

2. HE ALLUDED TO "A VERY ACTIVE" SECURITY INVESTIGATION AT USP, BUT DID NOT CLARIFY WHETHER THIS WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE STUDENT ELECTIONS

OR THE CEBRAP INVESTIGATION, OR WHETHER IT WAS UNCONNECTED TO EITHER. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS FAR MORE PREOCCUPIED OVER THE LABOR SCENE THAN WITH THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT SITUATION (SEE SEPTTEL)

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT LEAST ONE STUDENT LEADER AT USP, THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT CENTER OF THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS, WAS ARRESTED LAST THURSDAY FOLLOWING AN ALTERCATION WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THAT SCHOOL.

4. THE MINE EDUCATION SOURCE DENIED A RUMOR CIRCULATING AMONG NEWS MEDIA CIRCLES IN SAO PAULO ON SEPTEMBER 26 THAT AN AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR AT USP HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS REPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES.

5. CONGEN HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION SUGGESTING THAT PAUL SINGER WAS RELEASED LATE LAST WEEK. THE MINE EDUCATION SOURCE APPEARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS WAS TRUE. HE SAID THAT EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN CALLED IN ESPECIALLY TO INTERROGATE

SINGER'S STATUS AS AN INTELLECTUAL. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE CEBRAP CASE FURTHER, HOWEVER, EXCEPT TO REITERATE HIS PREVIOUS INFORMATION THAT THE INSTITUTE HAD BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR A LONG

TIME BECAUSE OF THE NOT-SO-VEILED ANTI-GOVERNMENT CAST OF ITS WORK. IN THE PAST, THIS SOURCE HAS MADE KNOWN TO CONGEN HIS DISSATISFACTION
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WITH THE FACT THAT CEBRAP HAS RECEIVED IMPORTANT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FORD FOUNDATION. (SEE SAO PAULO TEL. 858.) AT THE VERY LEAST HE REGARDS THE FORD FOUNDATION, THROUGH THE AGENCY OF ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN RIO DE JANEIRO, AS HAVING BEEN DUPED INTO FINANCING LEFTIST-INSPIRED ANTI-GOB RESEARCH. LAST APRIL HE TOLD US THAT HE SUSPECTED AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY INVOLVING CEBRAP, CLACSO, AN ARGENTINE-BASED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, AND A SIMILAR ORGANIZATION WHICH HE SAID HAD

BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE CHILE SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE PINOCHET GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE SINCE BEEN ADVISED BY AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES THAT CLACSO IS FORD FOUNDATION-FINANCED AND WE ASSUME THAT OUR MINEDUCATION SOURCE PROBABLY IS AWARE OF THIS AS WELL.

6. THE MINEDUCATION, SOURCE, WHO IS ALSO CRITICAL OF AMERICAN TRADE UNION EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL (SEE SEPTTEL), AT LEAST HAD ONE FAVORABLE COMMENT TO MAKE ABOUT A RECENT AMERICAN ACADEMIC VENTURE

IN SAO PAULO. HAVING EARLIER REFLECTED THE CONCERN OF LOCAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES THAT THE FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SCHEDULED AT THE GETULIO VARGAS FOUNDATION AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 3 COULD SERVE AS A FOCUS FOR A NEW ROUND OF STUDENT AGITATION IN SAO PAULO, HE EXPRESSED (IN OUR LATEST CONVERSATION) SATISFACTION WITH MODERATING INFLUENCE WHICH PROFESSOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI HAD EXERTED ON THE DEBATE.

7. COMMENT: THE STUDENT TURNOUT FOR UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN VERY LOW, THIS YEAR'S RESULTS EVIDENTLY BEING A RECORD COUNT. THE INCREASED STUDENT INTEREST IN UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS HAS GIVEN RISE TO SPECULATION THAT STUDENTS MAY TURN OUT FOR THE SENATE AND DEPUTY ELECTIONS ON NOVEMBER 15 IN RECORD NUMBERS CASTING THEIR BALLOTS FOR THE OPPOSITION MDB PARTY RATHER THAN VOTING IN BLANK, AS MANY HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, AS A SIGN OF PROTEST AGAINST THE EXISTING POLITICAL SYSTEM.

8. WHILE PRESSURES FROM BRASILIA EVIDENTLY HAVE RESULTED FINALLY IN SINGER'S RELEASE BY LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES, THEIR INITIAL REFUSAL TO LET HIM GO CONSTITUTES A REPETITION OF A FAMILIAR PATTERN IN SAO PAULO WHEREBY LOCAL SECURITY AGENTS HAVE APPEARED TO BE DISPOSED AND ABLE--AT LEAST FOR A LIMITED PERIOD--TO DEFY INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIGHER AUTHORITY. END COMMENT. CHAPIN UNQTE. CRIMMINS

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